

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Applicants appreciate the Office's suggested amendments to the independent claims to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The above amendments implement the Office's suggestions, but in slightly different form to possibly enhance the readability of the claims. Because the claim elements were already present in the claims before this Amendment, no new matter is believed to be added by way of this Amendment.

Applicants also appreciate the Office's indication that traversal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, would likely result in withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments overcome all of the current rejections to the claims (*i.e.*, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)). As such, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1-22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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